

# NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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## FORTIETH ANNUAL CONVENTION NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

May 11-15, 1936—Headquarters: Hotel Schroeder, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

*Theme: Relation of the Home to Character Formation*



Headed by Mrs. W. A. Hastings, State President (left), and Miss Emma F. Brookmire, Chairman of General Arrangements (right), hostess state committees are working tirelessly to provide a flawless setting for the Convention. Mrs. Hastings says: "Our parents and teachers look forward to the National Convention as a source of inspiration and information which will add greatly to the development of the parent-teacher movement in Wisconsin."



**N**O PIED PIPER is needed to lure delegates to the National Convention in Milwaukee, May 11-15. The allurements offered by the splendid program are sufficient inducement for parents, teachers, and others interested in children, to begin looking up train schedules and hotel rates for Milwaukee.

Mrs. Langworthy and her program committee have enlisted the services of an unusually brilliant array of speakers, including two of Wisconsin's most famous citizens, Governor Philip LaFollette, and Glenn Frank, President of the University of Wisconsin; G. Bromley Oxnam, President of DePauw University; and Mlle. Marie Butts, Secretary of the International Bureau of Education at Geneva, Switzerland.

### Glenn Frank

Dr. Glenn Frank, President of the University of Wisconsin, on Wednesday evening, will present his views of an intriguing subject on which there is wide difference of opinion when he speaks on the topic "Does Education Insure Character?" Dr. Frank holds that "The supreme contribution the schools can make to the social welfare in this democracy is the training of leaders and the cultivation of popular understanding. Schools are in the business of making men as well as minds." Plans are under way to broadcast his address over a nationwide radio hook-up, definite announcement to be made later.

### Banquet

"Of Human Needs," a subject in which the Congress has long been interested, is the topic for the annual banquet on Tuesday evening. As a speaker for this important occasion, the program committee has enlisted a man who has distinguished himself not only for his verbal expressions of concern for the welfare of the people, but for his practical efforts in their behalf. Wisconsin's socially-minded Governor, Phillip LaFollette, is particularly well fitted to discuss "Of Human Needs," for he has a long record of achievement in his pioneer efforts to effect some measure of social security for the people of his state. Congress members are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to hear the man of whom Louis Adamic says: "He can talk simply, even ungrammatically, if that helps the folks to understand him. He is dramatic, dynamic, convincing, obviously an idealist. . . . He has a high quality of charm, the core of which, it seems to me, is a direct, eager, typically American simplicity."

An informal reception, with national officers comprising the receiving line, will follow the banquet.

In order to insure accommodations, those wishing to attend the banquet are urged to send in their reservations early to Mrs. J. B. Basteys, 3341 North Bremen Street, Milwaukee. All reservations must be made before Monday noon, May 11. Banquet tickets are \$1.65 each.

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# NATIONAL CONVENTION

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## Conferences

Never before in the history of the Congress has so rich a program and so varied an assortment of subjects been offered in the conferences led by specialists in each field. The long list of conferences to be conducted from 2:00 to 4:00 each afternoon will provide stimulating discussion of these subjects: Art, Character Education, Child Hygiene, Exceptional Child, Home Education, Homemaking, Health, Humane Education, International Relations, Legislation, Library Service, Membership, Mental Hygiene, Motion Pictures, Music, National Parent-Teacher Magazine, Parent Education, Parliamentary Procedure, Publications, Publicity, Radio, Recreation, Rural Service, Safety, School Education, Student Aid, Summer Round-Up.

Each conference is designed primarily to assist persons interested in that particular field to plan more live, challenging programs and to carry on a better program of work in their communities when they return home. Not only parent-teacher members but members of other organizations and "rugged individualists" will find much stimulation and food for thought in the discussions. Among the conferences closely related to the Convention theme may be mentioned the following:

## HOMEMAKING

Miss Florence Fallgatter, chairman, aims to broaden and deepen an appreciation of the home and emphasizes the great necessity for putting homes and family life on as high and wholesome a level as is possible in the community. Adequate nutrition, desirable health conditions, consumer education, and use of resources leading to physical, mental, and moral development will be covered.

## STUDENT AID

Mrs. F. H. Devere, chairman, will consider where student aid is most helpful—college, high or grade-school, methods of financing, and whether best carried on by a state, district, or local.

## CHARACTER EDUCATION

Dr. Joseph M. Artman, chairman, will discuss the home as the primary character institution and the degree of its stability in a period of social upheaval.

## CHILD HYGIENE AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Committees will hold a joint conference on Wednesday morning, with Mrs. M. P. Summers, Director of Health, presiding, and Miss Mary Murphy, Child Hygiene Chairman, and Dr. Frances Gaw, Mental Hygiene Chairman, acting as discussion leaders. The discussion will center around such topics as how the home and school can provide adequate protection for mental and physical development in view of the increasing complexity of life today, the essentials of a wholesome program of living for the preschool, the gradeschool, the highschool and the adolescent child, and how the child's character is related to a healthy body and a healthy mind.

## Publicity

Through the cooperation of the Marquette University, School of Journalism, J. L. O'Sullivan, Dean, and Theta Sigma Phi Journalism Sorority, Miss Marjorie Wilson, President, arrangements have been made for journalism students of Marquette University to assist with Convention publicity. Their special assignment will be covering the afternoon conferences for the Convention News, with the help of the chairman and secretary of each conference.

The Convention News will be published daily for five days beginning Monday, May 11. Roy Ragatz, Advertising Manager of the *Wisconsin Education Journal*, will assist Emma Brookmire, Publicity Chairman of the Wisconsin Congress, in editing the Convention News.

Mlle. Marie Butts, Secretary of the International Bureau of Education at Geneva, Switzerland, will address the convention on "The Open Door," Thursday evening, as a feature of the International Night program.

## Travel Expense

For your help in estimating the cost of your transportation to the National Convention we are listing the round trip first class fares from various points to Milwaukee:

	Round-trip
Boston, Mass. ....	\$52.24
Butte, Mont. ....	56.64
Chicago, Ill. ....	3.40
Cincinnati, Ohio ....	17.08
Denver, Colo. ....	42.19
Ft. Worth, Tex. ....	40.54
Jacksonville, Fla. ....	46.68
Los Angeles, Calif. ....	91.02
Nashville, Tenn. ....	21.54
New Orleans, La. ....	40.91
New York, N. Y. ....	47.00
Omaha, Neb. ....	20.68
Pittsburgh, Pa. ....	25.91
Portland, Ore. ....	85.23
Providence, R. I. ....	52.19
Richmond, Va. ....	39.98
San Diego, Calif. ....	91.02
San Francisco, Calif. ....	91.02
Salt Lake City, Utah ....	60.48
Sante Fe, N. M. ....	54.47
Seattle, Wash. ....	82.90
St. Louis, Mo. ....	14.96
Tulsa, Okla. ....	30.62
Washington, D. C. ....	40.44

The round-trip fares are established on the regular Convention basis of one and one-third one-way first class fare.

## Wisconsin, Our Hostess State

Wisconsin, hostess state, for the 1936 National Congress Convention, has a romantic history replete with deeds of daring, and thrilling acts of martyrdom. In the year 1634, hardly 20 years after the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock, Jean Nicolle visited Wisconsin. Priests, fur traders, and other French explorers followed him into the interior of the state. The French flag flew over this land for nearly 100 years. Later, it was under the British flag for 50 years.

In the heart of the nation's midwestern playground, Wisconsin offers a variegated landscape, variously described as "A Sample of the German Rhine," "A Patch of Wyoming Landscape," "A Rocky Mountain Lake," "A Section of Maine's Coast Line," and a "Copy of Japan's Matushima." There are also several thousand square miles of rolling prairie land and almost 9,000 lakes.

Archaeologists look upon Wisconsin as the center of the Indian effigy mound region, approximately 20,000 Indian mounds having been found there. The Dells of Wisconsin at Kilbourn have attracted visitors for generations. Northward one enters the Wisconsin highlands, land of pine and lakes, hemlocks, birch and popple. Here may be found Wisconsin's waterfalls and cascades, as well as its Indian reservations, where the Redmen still harvest wild rice and pick blueberries.



## Safety Project

Latest developments on the Traffic Safety Education Project inaugurated last month by the National Congress are as follows:

Regional conferences of state presidents were held March 14 to April 2 in the following eleven cities: Chicago, Omaha, Denver, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, Oklahoma City, Little Rock, Atlanta, Washington, Boston, and New York. State presidents or state safety chairmen representing 45 state branches attended these conferences, pledged their support of the augmented program, and discussed methods of arousing interest in highway safety in their respective states. Many of the states requested exhibit materials for their spring conventions. Oregon has the distinction of being the first state to adopt a formal resolution indorsing the project.

Requests for the initial publication, a safety message from the National President, received from 38 states up to April 1, totaled 1,225,000. This message, in the form of a one-page circular, is being distributed to the state branches during the month of April. (Requests for copies of the safety message should be addressed to the state president.)

The deep interest of the state presidents was manifested in the large number who set aside other plans to attend the conferences. Those who were unable to attend in person sent representatives, usually the state chairman of safety.

Miss Marian Telford, National Chairman of Safety, who is directing the project, led the conferences. She explained that the new project is an expansion of the three-year safety program adopted by the Congress at the beginning of Mrs. Langworthy's administration. She outlined the present traffic accident problem and traffic problems of particular interest to parent-teacher members, stressing the responsibility of the individual parent-teacher member for traffic safety. She emphasized the importance of parent-teacher cooperation in school safety programs and community safety movements within the province of the organization. A new leaflet containing a suggested program on traffic safety is being pre-

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## Summer Round-Up

The young fisherman shown above may serve to remind us that as we grow older, almost all of us "fish" for health in one manner or another. In order that today's children may need to do less of that type of "fishing," the National Congress has as its main health project the Summer Round-Up of the Children. This work officially begins each year on May Day, National Child Health Day.

Children numbering 95,467 were examined in the last Round-Up, according to Miss Ruth Bottomly, Secretary, who has just completed the tabulation of the results of the 1935 campaign. The total number of Congress units carrying through the Round-Up project was 3,831. The children receiving vaccination against smallpox, 36,325; immunization against diphtheria, 29,233; tuberculosis tested, 3,381; and dental care, 13,754.

The aim of the Round-Up is to send to school each fall an entering class of children who are as free as possible from remedial defects. The work is divided into three parts: (1) examination in the spring; (2) correction of the defects during the summer; and (3) a check-up in the fall.

When any child goes to school for the first time, the chances are one to one that he needs medical care and one to two that he needs to see a dentist.

Associations planning to take part in the 1936 Round-Up campaign are requested to register before May 15. It is hoped that the plan worked out for the preschool child will stimulate parents to have all children examined periodically for physical and dental defects, and these remedied as early as possible.

The American Red Cross, in its

March news letter, urges public health nurses to give all possible cooperation with their local parent-teacher associations in the new Summer Round-Up. They state that it is an integral part of a well-rounded child-health program.

## Parent-Teacher Radio Forum

N.B.C.—WJZ Blue Network

Wednesday, 2:30-3:00 p. m., E.S.T.  
Sponsored by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the University of Chicago, and the National Broadcasting Company

### June 3

#### Eating Habits of Children—

Dr. L. Jean Bogert, Biochemist and Nutrition Expert, New York City.

### June 10

#### The Emotional Life of Children—

Mandel Sherman, Associate Professor of Educational Psychology, University of Chicago.

NOTE: Mimeographed copies of these radio talks, after delivery, may be secured from the National Office, price 5 cents each.

Dean Frank O. Holt, Department of Extension, University of Wisconsin, will speak on some phases of the youth problem, Wednesday, May 13, on the weekly Parent-Teacher Radio Forum. Dean Holt's talk will develop some of the points under the Convention theme.

## Chautauqua P.T.A. Day

Parent-Teacher Day will be observed August 13 at Lake Chautauqua, New York. Mrs. Ralph E. Brodie, President of the New York Congress of Parents and Teachers, is in charge of local arrangements. This is the third consecutive year that Parent-Teacher Day has been held at Chautauqua.

Willard W. Beatty, a member of our National Congress Advisory Council, is the new director of Indian Education in the Office of Indian Affairs of the U. S. Department of the Interior. Mr. Beatty has been president of the Progressive Education Association for three years and served ten years as superintendent of Bronxville public schools, New York.



## News from State Branches

**Connecticut** The state convention of the Connecticut Congress scheduled for April 17-18, at Hartford, has been postponed because of flood conditions. Conferences are to be held in Bridgeport and New London instead.

**Delaware** Mrs. Manley P. Northam, Yorklyn, was elected President of the Delaware Congress at its convention April 4.

**Tennessee** A Traveling Congress Library is a new service of the Tennessee Congress to its members. The library includes books published by the National Congress, a set of reference display folders on the Seven Cardinal Objectives of Education, Parent Education and Organization, mimeographed helps and playlets. The borrower agrees to pay the mailing charges and return the exhibit immediately after the meeting.

**New Hampshire** A three-day Parent-Teacher Course was held this year in the two Normal schools of New Hampshire, at Plymouth and Keene. The course was divided into three lectures, each given by a state board member:

1. History and Aims of Parent-Teacher Associations, Mrs. Andrew Ayer, First Vicepresident.
2. Organization and Types of Programs, Mrs. Benjamin Kendrigan, Third Vicepresident.
3. Philosophy and Teachers' Part in Parent-Teacher Work, Mrs. Robert Crosby, State President.

**Washington** A history of the Washington Congress of Parents and Teachers in book form is being compiled by the state historian and will be ready for sale at the state convention, May 4-6, Tacoma.

**Maine** The first institute to be held at the University of Maine for the training of parent-teacher leaders was held March 25 in connection with Farm and Home Week. Another feature of the week was the session of the Maine Congress, co-operating with the Main Children's Council, when A. R. Wellington, district representative of the National Recreation Association, spoke on "Promoting Recreational Facilities in Your Community." Mrs. Noel C. Little, president of the Maine Congress, presided at the session.

## Educational Policies Commission

Presidents of the state Congresses of Parents and Teachers have been invited to serve as consultants ex officio of the Educational Policies Commission. The Commission was appointed for a five-year term of office in December 1935, by the joint action of the National Education Association and the Department of Superintendence to develop long-range planning for the improvement of American schools.

The policies of the Commission will be developed from its contacts with educational and civic leaders serving as consultants in all parts of the country.

## Annual Reports

Annual report season again approaches. Suggestions concerning annual reports have been mailed to state presidents, and state committee chairmen having corresponding national chairmen. State chairmen who have no national chairman are asked to send a report of the year's work direct to the National Office.

Reports should cover the important activities of the year, an evaluation of results, problems encountered, and help needed from the National Congress to make state work easier or more effective. Statistical information may be included if desired.

The dates when reports are due are as follows:

State chairmen to National Chairmen, April 15

For *Proceedings*—National Chairmen and State Presidents to National Office, May 20

State Summaries of Local Unit Information to National Office, July 1 (extra copies of the report blank may be secured from the National Office on request).

Dr. Edgar Dale, National Motion Pictures Chairman, will represent the National Congress at the annual meeting of the Child Welfare Committee of the League of Nations on April 27, at Geneva. Dr. Dale will also represent the Payne Fund at this meeting. He will sail on the *Aquatania*, April 15.

A. L. Threlkeld, Superintendent of Schools, Denver, since 1927, was elected the president of the Department of Superintendence at its recent convention in St. Louis.

Miss Ellen C. Lombard, Home Education chairman, is concerned with good homes as an essential of character building and how the home may be an effective educational center.

## Ohio P.T.A. Survey

The value of membership in the state and National Congress is emphasized in the findings of a survey of parent-teacher associations in Ohio, recently completed by the Ohio Education Association.

"A well-organized and properly conducted P.T.A. demonstrates its power to preserve and strengthen the faith of the people in the value of free public education," concludes the committee survey (1933-35), which contacted 75 Ohio superintendents and over 200 Ohio principals and teachers. The consensus of the group was that, in general, the P.T.A. service now being rendered the schools is varied, practical, and worthwhile.

For the purpose of helping P.T.A.'s render even better service to the school, the survey makes the following recommendations to the schoolmen:

1. The advantages of the national, state, and council affiliations are so obvious that school heads can reasonably urge such membership and the conversion of "free lance" groups into regular Congress units.
2. The lead in formation of new local units, Dad's Clubs, etc., should be taken by the school people.
3. Participation in planning, leadership, accomplishment, and regularity of attendance are ways in which school people can encourage their P.T.A.'s.
4. Informed school people are as important as informed leadership among P.T.A. members. They should avail themselves of some type of P.T.A. leadership training and insist upon this study and use of approved P.T.A. literature by their groups.
5. Superintendents, principals, and teachers should cooperate and advise with their P.T.A. officers and be informed on contemplated plans before the execution of these plans. They should tactfully direct the associations that minister to their schools but this should be done in a quiet and dignified way.

## SAFETY PROJECT

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pared for the use of local Congress units, she announced.

Miss Telford and William H. Bristow, General Secretary, participated in the Seventh Annual Greater New York Safety Conference, held in New York City, March 3-5.

Consideration of the problem of highschool safety education was an outstanding development of the Conference. Representatives from the Middle Atlantic states reported significant developments in the field of highschool safety, with particular reference to the training of drivers in the highschool.